

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Possible Cholera Epidemic Along Southern Bulgarian Borders	DATE DISTR.	29 July 1954
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Anti-cholera vaccination programs have been carried out in Bulgaria several times in the past few years, but the Bulgarian government has always attempted to conceal these programs from the neighboring countries.
2. Regardless of this secrecy, the Bulgarian government was extremely embarrassed in early May 1954 by Turkish newspaper articles reporting an anti-cholera vaccination program and a possible cholera epidemic in southern Bulgaria and naming Turkish-Bulgarian train crew members as sources. The same articles, quoting responsible Turkish officials, stated that Turkish authorities had immediately queried the Bulgarian government for official confirmation of an epidemic or vaccination program. According to these Turkish officials, the Bulgarian government replied that no vaccination program was being carried out, nor had any cases of cholera been reported.

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1. Comment: Reports received previously disclosed that [redacted] on or about 1 May 1954 that the Bulgarians were carrying out an anti-cholera vaccination program in southern Bulgaria and that a cholera epidemic had broken out in this area.

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2. [redacted]
- Comment: On 24 April 1954, the Athens newspaper Estia carried the following announcement: "The Greek Minister of Welfare has announced that according to unverified reports, cholera cases have been noted in Bulgaria. He said that his ministry has taken all necessary measures to prevent any possible danger. He also said that up to the present no official confirmation of the report has been made and that therefore there is no need for anxiety." [redacted] The London Times of 26 April 1954 printed the following item: "The Greek Welfare Minister has informed medical officers throughout the country that according to 'unconfirmed but persistent reports' there is an outbreak of cholera in Bulgaria." Radio Athens of 28 April 1954 broadcast the following report: "The Welfare Ministry announces that it has been officially confirmed that there have been no cholera cases in Bulgaria. As a result, the Ministry has ordered the removal of preventive measures already adopted in the border areas."

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3. [redacted] Comment: In April 1954, a cholera epidemic was reported in the Varna, Stara Zagora, and Kurdzhali areas. [redacted] About 15 April 1954, the population of Godeshevo (N 41-28, E 24-03) were reportedly being given injections of an unknown type, compulsory for people up to 45 years of age. Two injections were given three days apart to each person in the arm muscles. [redacted]

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